Illegal sale of kidneys

2532. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sale of kidneys is a cottage industry in Chennai;

(b) if so, the effective steps taken or are being taken to prevent illegal sale of kidneys and other human organs, in blatant violation of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994; and

(c) the number of cases of illegal sale of kidneys and other organs that came to Government's notice during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Sale and purchase of human organs including kidneys is banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The Act has stringent provisions for punishing any one who commits such acts. Under Section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the Act who are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs including kidneys.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free treatment of patients by private hospitals

2533. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that private hospitals in Delhi have not fulfilled the mandatory requirement of treating a stipulated percentage of patients free of cost; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government of

NCT of Delhi has informed that all the private hospitals do not have mandatory requirement of treating a stipulated percentage of patients free. However, some hospitals which have been allotted land on concessional rate by Delhi Development Authority with condition to provide free treatment to the weaker section of -the society are required to provide free treatment to a stipulated percentage of patients.

Amendment in Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

2534. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, to enable easy access to the abortion pill;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any guideline for launching the abortion pill in the Family Welfare Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, does not mention any specific method of abortion. However, Government of India is in the process of amending the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 1975, wherein, besides other issues, Rules for facilitating easy access to abortion pills for safe abortions are also being considered.

(c) and (d) Currently, abortion pills are not being used as part of the Family Welfare Programme. However, in order to promote rational use of these pills, guidelines have been prepared with the help of experts.

Ban on sale of junk food

2535. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that junk food satisfy taste buds and have no nutritive value;